Osmania Courier

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AN EVENTFUL YEAR

(Clockwise from top left) President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurates the centenary celebrations along with Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao, Lok Sabha Member Bandaru Dattatreya, State Education Minister Kadiyam Srihari, TRS Secretary General K. Keshava Rao, Hyderabad Mayor Bonthu Rammohan and OU Vice Chancellor Prof. S. Ramachandram; Vice Chancellor felicitates Nobel Peace laurate Ben Moussa; thousands take part in Centenary Run; and Nobel laureate physicist Kurt Wuthrich engages in an interaction on campus.

The curtains will finally come down on the year-long centennial celebrations of Osmania University on 25 April 2017. The centenary celebrations had been flagged off by President Pranab Mukherjee on April 26, 2017.

The centenary year was marked by a host of policy initiatives / events and infrastructure development activities. The University in the right earnest stepped up augmenting the academic and research ethos on the campus, which resulted in the University being accorded the NAAC A+ grading with a score of 3.52.

Further, the centenary year was marked by forging and strengthening of ties with alumni network across the globe through national / international seminars, conferences, workshops etc. In order to serve the vast student and other clientele more efficiently, the University kickstarted several infra projects. To name a few: Technology Business Incubator, Command and Control Centre, Computer Data Centre at the CFRD building, conference hall in the PGRRCDE building, Dr. Ambedkar Research & Study Centre, online system to obtain certificates, etc.

Prof. Kurt Wüthrich, Nobel Laureate, delivered a public lecture as a curtainraiser to centenary celebrations on February 10, 2017, at Tagore Auditorium. He was awarded the Nobel Prize in 2002 for his contribution in development of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy for determining the 3D structure of biological macromolecules in solution. Prof. Wüthrich released the Centenary poster and also launched the Centenary website.

See Page 3 for schedule of the two-day Valedictory programme

As a mark of respect, about 500 retired professors from different colleges of Osmania were felicitated over three days.

Pre-centenary interactive alumni meetings with eminent Osmanians, alumni of Osmania University at Hyderabad and various districts, OU Alumni Public Representatives have been organised to get their suggestions for the year-long centenary celebrations.

The Centenary logo was unveiled and the Centenary brochure was released by E.S.L. Narasimhan, Governor, Telangana State.

A Centenary Run from Arts College to OU Engineering College was organised on March 11, 2017. About 10,000 people participated in the run with great enthusiasm and made it a mega event.

Two Centenary songs were penned by Suddala Ashok Teja and Kandikonda. The songs have been a big craze among Osmanians all over the world.

The Department of Journalism produced a 12-minute corporate video film, organised a photo exhibition and a booklet was published on the coverage of centenary news in the English press during the centenary celebrations. (*See box*)

The inaugural function was organised on April 26 at University 'A' Grounds on a grand scale. President Pranab Mukherjee was the chief guest for the inaugural function.

Other distinguished guests who graced the inaugural function were K. Chandrashekar Rao, Chief Minister, Telangana State, Kadiyam Srihari, Deputy Chief Minister & Minister for Education, Govt. of Telangana, E.S.L Narasimhan, Governor, Telangana & AP, and Bonthu Rammohan, Mayor of Hyderabad.

A seminar on role of OU in Telangana and nationbuilding was organised on April 26, 2017. Many eminent speakers were part of this seminar. A Nobel laureate lecture by Shirin Ebadi (Nobel Peace Prize winner in 2003) and a lecture by A.S. Kiran Kumar, Chairman, Indian Space Researce Organisation, on the theme 'India in Space' was organised on April 27, 2017.

On the same evening, a Centenary alumni meet was organised at 'A' Grounds for which Ch.Vidyasagar Rao, Governor of Maharashtra & Tamil Nadu, was the chief guest.

A Vice-Chancellors' conference was organised on 27 and 28 April, 2017. The Conference brought together about 200 Vice-Chancellors from all over India.

They deliberated on the role of universities in social and economic development. The conference aimed at developing vision, and a policy framework for higher education. Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of State for HRD was the chief guest.

On all three days, cultural programmes were organised in the evening between 6 p.m. to 9 p.m in front of Arts College. These programmes, reflecting Telangana culture and heritage, were very popular among students and visitors from outside.

The University has given financial support to the departments and Constituent Colleges for organising national and international seminars / conferences on various subjects by the faculty members. A global alumni meet was organised in Engineering College.

As a mark of respect, about 500 retired professors were felicitated on March 14-16, 2018. There were given a citation, a memento and a shawl by the Vice Chancellor, Osmania University. The programme was well received. (*See Pages 3 and 4*)

The University has organised Centenary state-level competitions in six fields, namely, essay-writing, elocution, quiz, Telangana song, Telangana dance, and painting.

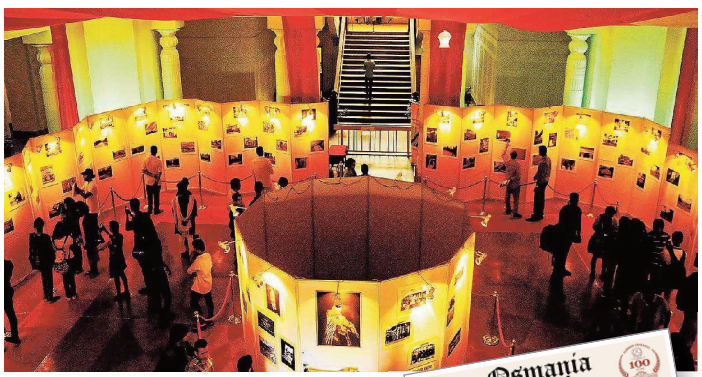
OU stakes claim to Eminence status

Vice Chancellor Prof. S. Ramachandram and his team made a forceful presentation staking claim to the 'Institution of Eminence' (IoE) status on April 3 at UGC. If granted, the likely benefits for the University include a sum of Rs. 1,000 crore over five years for infrastructure, academic and research components.

In academic component, the University would be free to start new research programmes and UG courses, recruit foreign faculty and increase the intake of foreign students by 30 per cent over and above the sanctioned strength.

The idea behind IoE status is to enhance international presence of Indian universities and see that they figure in the list of top-200 world universities.

Journalism Department makes a splash



Osmania Courier

GENESIS

University's inception marked by twists and turns

The Department of Journalism & Mass Communication has been instrumental in making a major impact during the Centenary Celebrations. During the kickstart of the Celebrations, a corporate film on the University painstakingly produced by the Department was screened at the inaugural. The film (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ru4JISDmJWQ) traced the history of the University, and highlighted its contribution to the nation and to Telangana in particular in higher education. It also showcased the infrastructure, the eminent alumni, making it a citadel of higher education in the State. Further, 'Pixel', the seven-day photo exhibition was a smashing hit among over 30,000 visitors. Widely appreciated by the media, the exhibition had some rare photographs borrowed from the Nizam's Museum in Purani Haveli (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckTDGNg6-bU). The visitors included officials from the State Education Ministry, former Vice Chancellors, retired faculty members and residents of the city. A 16-page special edition of *Osmania Courier* was also brought out (http://jhub.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Centenary-Courier-for-Web.pdf).

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Editorial Trainees
Sreenija Gopagani, M. Sai Datta, Japhet Otchere Gyamfi, E. Lalithya, P.V. Sravani, R. Ajay Chandra

Layout
Dr. B. Ramakrishna
Asst. Professor (C)

Editor
Prof. K. Stevenson
Head, Dept. of Journalism & Mass Communication

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UNIVERSITY BUDGET 2018-19

Plans for three new centres stand out

SREENIJA GOPAGANI

Setting up of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Research and Study Centre, an Innovation and Incubation Centre, and Centre for Telangana Studies are among the infrastructure facilities budgeted by Osmania University for 2018-19.

Presenting the annual budget on March 29 to the members of the Academic Senate, Prof. R. Nageswar Rao, Dean, Faculty of Management, said that an expenditure of Rs. 686.77 crore was planned, as against an income of Rs. 623.59 crore.

Nearly 20 per cent of the expenses, i.e., Rs. 135.46 crore, has been earmarked for infrastructure facilities, including construction of centenary buildings and other related works; establishment of colleges at Siddipet, Jogipet and Narsapur; and for transfer of funds to the Secretary, BOC, IUT.

As the block grant of Rs. 309.54 crore allocated to the University for the year is not sufficient, the University plans to approach the State Government for additional funds.

With the financial assistance of the State Government, the University also plans to construct new academic blocks at an estimated cost of Rs. 40 crore, and new residential buildings for the Vice Chancellor and the Registrar, new buildings for Univesity Foreign Relations Office, Model High School, and Nizamiah Observatory at Japal Rangapur at an estimated cost of Rs. 30.50 crore.

Restoration / renovation and maintenance of old buildings in Arts College and Science College at a cost of Rs. 10 crore, and restoration of old hostel building at University College of Science, Saifabad, at a cost of Rs 2 crore is also on the cards.

The University is expecting Rs. 7.18 crore to be available for utilisation from the University Grants Commission with an expected flow of Rs. 5.63 crore this year adding to the already available amount of Rs. 1.55 crore. The University has lined up expenditure of Rs. 6.49 crore under this head, leaving a balance of Rs. 69.28 lakh.

Further, it expects Rs 21.14 crore to be available under the University with Potential for Excellence scheme. The spending under this scheme is expected to be around Rs 19.35 crore, while the remaining Rs 1.79 crore will be carried over as balance to the next year.

The surplus of revenue at the PGRR Centre for Distance Education (PGRRCDE) will be transferred to the University Fund Account and will be utilised for payment of salaries to employees, Prof. Rao noted.

This year, the receipts at PGRRCDE are expected to touch Rs 32.76 crore, apart from Rs. 5.15 crore carried over from last year. Of this, a sum of Rs. six crore is to be claimed by University Fund Account, considering CDE's own expenditure of Rs. 14.42 crore and a balance of Rs. 5.2 crore.

Prof. S. Ramachandram, Vice Chancellor, highlighted the activities / events taken up from December 2017 onwards.

Prof T Vijay Kumar, Head, Department of English, presented the annual report. Prof. Ch. Gopal Reddy, Registrar, proposed a vote of thanks.

Prof. T.Krishna Rao, Officer on Special Duty, senior officials of the University, and members of the Senate were present.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vice Chancellor Prof. S. Ramachandram having a look at the special exhibition of books authored by / on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar organised by Osmania University Library on the latter's birth anniversary on April 14. Also seen are Prof. Ch. Gopal Reddy, Registrar, OU, Prof. T. Krishna Rao, OSD, and Prof. Nakula Reddy, Head, Dept. of Economics, among others.

The venue of many a college fest, the Tagore Auditorium, is set to get a makeover by April-end. Here, Vice Chancellor Prof. S. Ramachandram inspects the ongoing renovation works.

Law students got an opportunity to test their skills in a courtroom environment as part of the 'Justicia' Moot Court programme held at the University College of Law.

Grant of autonomy buoys up Osmania

Buoyed by the grant of highest autonomy under the graded system by the University Grants Commission, Osmania University is gearing up to put in place a series of initiatives to take full advantage of the status.

The University authorities are in discussions with the departments, centres and faculty on how best the autonomy can be implemented across the varsity.

Osmania University, a Category I institution by virtue of its A+ status and a score of 3.5 by National Accreditation and Assessment Council, is one of the few Universities in Telangana to be granted "graded autonomous" status.

According to a February 2018 notification, Osmania figures in the list of 21 State Universities across the country. The UGC note said that the autonomous status will facilitate Universities to undertake curricular reforms, start new courses, introduce academic innovations, hire foreign faculty, enroll foreign students, give incentive-based emoluments to the faculty, enter into academic collaborations and run/open distance learning programmes provided they generate their own resources rather than depend on the government. These Universities can also set up new campuses, start own centres as per their own Act and regulations governing them and have the freedom to fix fees.

The key condition is that universities need to generate their own resources to fund their plans under autonomy

"Despite their freedom to start their own courses and introduce new academic programmes, the universities will however remain within the ambit of the UGC," said Prakash Javadekar, Union HRD minister.

NIRF 2018: OU in top 30 universities

Osmania University has been ranked 28th among universities in the 2018 edition of the National Institutional Ranking Framework. The rank was 23 in 2017 and 33 in 2016.

This overall rank is arrived at based on scores on five creteria, namely, teaching and learning resources; research and professional practice; graduation outcomes; outreach and inclusivity; and perception. OU performed its best (in terms of criterion-wise ranking) in 'graduation outcomes', figuring at third place, after JNU and BHU. The varsity was placed 37th in terms of research and professional practice; 59th in terms of perception among peers and employers; and 98th in terms of teaching and learning resources.

At 141, OU's ranking was worst in 'outreach and inclusivity' which considers diversity of student body and facilities for physically challenged students, among others.

Pvt varsities law raises hackles

The passage of a new law in the Telangana Assembly, permitting establishment of private universities in the State, has occasioned vociferous protests by students on campus.

Students expressed fears that this was the thin end of a wedge that would ultimately weaken publicly funded higher education, and would lead to privatisation of existing universities. Student organisations enforced a bandh as part of the protests on the campus.

Responding to the charge that the government was promoting private universities at the cost of State universities, Education Minister Kadiyam Srihari clarified that the government was not rolling out a red carpet to private universities.

"The government will not give them any land. If they wanted to have tie-ups with foreign universities," Mr. Srihari said, adding that they would have to follow all statutes of the Centre as also guidelines issued by AICTE and UGC.

OU-Missouri dual degree courses on the anvil

Osmania University will start offering dual degree courses in partnership with the University of Missouri, St Louis (UMSL) as early as this July. OU Vice Chancellor Prof. S. Ramachandram had an early morning video conference recently with UMSL officials to firm up the subjects that will be part of the programme.

According to Prof. Ramachandram, the courses include MS in Chemistry (Integrated, 3 years in OU + 2 in UMSL), MS in Computer Science (4 years BTech. in OU and 1 year in UMSL); MA in Communication - (1 year in OU and 1 year in UMSL); and MBA (1 year in OU + 1 year in UMSL).

Forty students, 10 each from the four courses will get an opportunity to study in UMSL. Osmania University officials are working on the modalities of this programme.

The Deepak Vyas Foundation will partially fund the overseas part of the course for selected students. It is also keen on setting up an endowment fund for this purpose.

UMSL officials also expressed interest in bringing their courses in criminology and criminal justice, and in optometry to Osmania.

UMSL currently has partnership with about 75 universities located in 50 countries. Most are student-exchange relationships, with some being more active than others.

The video conference was a follow-up to a meeting the Vice Chancellor had with the officials of the UMSL during his US visit last year. Thomas F. George, Vice Chancellor, UMSL, Neeta Bhushan, Consul General of India in Chicago, Joel N Glassman, Director, UMSL, and Deepak Kant Vyas, Indian American entrepreneur, participated in the video conference. Dr. C. Srinivasulu, IQAC Coordinator, and Prof. K. Narender, Director, EMRC, were also present.

TEACHERS' DAY OUT

Marking the Centenary year, Osmania University hosts grand felicitation for retired professors

SAI DATTA MIKKILINENI

The Ides of March is a date on the Roman calendar, corresponding to March 15th. In Roman times, it was the date of several religious festivals, and also the date when debts would be called in.

At Osmania too, it was payback time. Yes, a "huge debt" the University owed to the Professors who served it for decades.

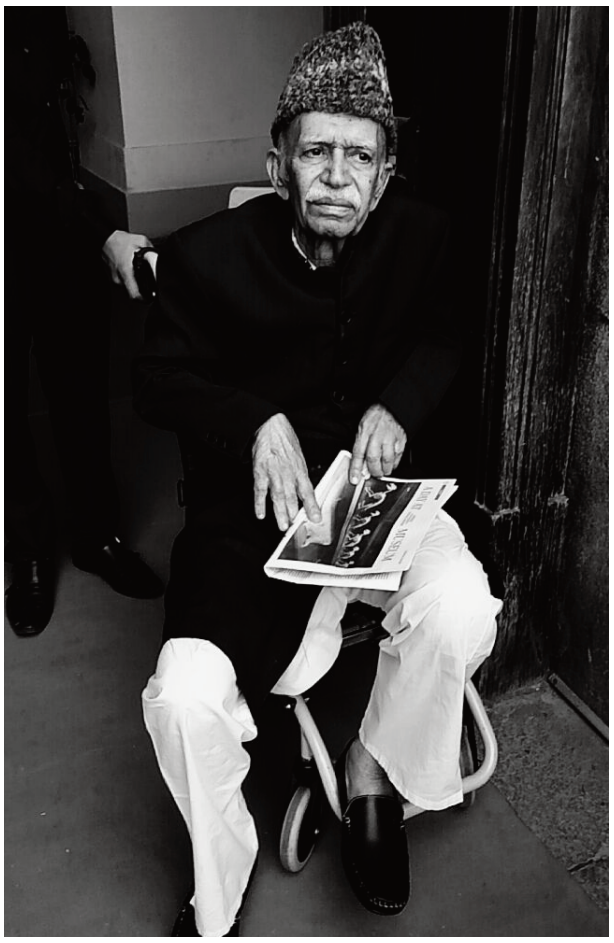
Nearly 500 retired Professors of Osmania University were invited to the campus to be honoured for their invaluable services. The cruel and blazing sun beat down the backs of many but little did they care. Their excitement seemed to end not-so-soon as they entered the three venues: Science College, Arts College and Engineering College.

The seniours were welcomed with a red carpet and warm *namastes* by the Principals. Students spent their time well guiding these legends to their places.

Never once, while at the venue, did their smile fade away. The glint in their eyes spoke of Osmania even as they admitted that it was an honour working for the University. The love and memories for the university was palpable going by the numbers at multiple venues in the university.

Nostalgia filled the air and there was a sense of pride and happiness writ on their faces. They walked back the paths they had trodden umpteen times in the University. No doubt that the retirees would cherish these moments for rest of their lives.

Vice Chancellor Prof. S. Ramachandram acknowledged their services to the university and said, "We felt this is the right moment to felicitate you for your accomplishments".



VETERANS RETURN: Prof. Yousuf Sharifuddin from the Department of Urdu and Prof. B. Yadava Reddy from the Department of Economics were among the nearly 500 retired professors who were felicitated.

The Registrar, Professor Gopal Reddy also applauded their services and said, "Whatever we are today is because of their services. The glory of Osmania University is the cause of their work". Professor Fatima, Principal of the University College of Engineering, called the professors as 'Kings and Queens of their respective fields'.

As Kishore Bansal rightly said, "No Matter what your age is, you can be great". For them, age is just a number and definitely not a barrier towards further exploration. Meeting after several years and in some cases decades, they left no time in discussing the recent developments in their fields.

Professor Prasad who had worked for the Department of Chemistry for nearly 40 years says, "We've retired from the college but not from Science". Professor Prakash, also from Chemistry, adds, "Though I'm told that I'm an old man, I'm very young and still writing research papers". Professor P.L. Vishweshwar Rao from Journalism Dept. says, "Life does not end at 60, it begins at 60".

The reputation of Osmania has no boundaries. Professors recalled how reputed this University is and still growing. Several of them credited the university which helped them in their careers.

Professor Manoharachary from Botany quoted a famous saying, "If the education is lost, the nation is lost". "Whatever we have done in research formed this university into a prestigious one. Always see that the flag of OU is high", he said.

Prof. Subramaniam added his experience of facing the warmth of Osmania, "In several peer-reviewed committees, respect was shown whenever Osmania name comes up". Professor Prakash from Chemistry who lead the Indian delegation to International Chemistry Olympiad several years back says, "I was the chief mentor of the Indian team because I was of Osmania University's breed. All the opportunities I got is because of OU. OU deserves all the credit."

Prof. Ali from the Arabic Dept. said, "My department received international recognition because of OU". Professor Janardhan from Botany terms the university as 'Second to none'. He also said, "Our department was the first in the nation to receive assistance from Department of Bio-Technology, Government of India. Such is the reputation of Osmania", he added.

For current students, a throwback to past glory

JAPHET OTCHERE GYAMFI

For current students who attended the event perhaps to hear for themselves what Osmania University was like, there was a feeling of uncertainty as the experiences shared were entirely different from what the reality is now.

This they described as the "good old days". But as one wonders, the only solution could probably be hard work, commitment and discipline.

Retired professors and other senior faculty members, replying to the felicitations, expressed their desire to still work to support OU even after retirement. From the interactions, it was clear that most of the retirees virtually spent all their working lives at Osmania and that for them is a huge sacrifice.

Some also recounted the good glorious days when graduates from Osmania University would not be asked any further questions at job interviews once they claimed that they were from OU. Can that be said about OU graduates today?

Telangana temples in focus

A two-day national seminar on 'Temple Cultures in Telangana -- A Historical Perspective', organised by the Department of History, has focused the spotlight on the status, artistic quality and patronage / neglect of temples in Telangana.

Prof. Dena Bandhu Pandey from Banaras Hindu University highlighted the unique features and trends in temple architecture of this region between sixth and 18th centuries. He also underscored the multifacted role played by the temples and the liberal patronage extended by local rulers and traders.

The architectural beauty and splendour of Kakatiya-era temples came in for praise from Prof. M. Krishna Kumari, an expert in medieval cultural history from Andhra University. She made a particular mention of the temples at Hanumakonda, Palampet, Ghanpur and Pillalamarri.

Taking the case of Palampet

Ramappa temple, Dr. E. Sivanagi Reddy, CEO, Amaravati Vijayawada Cultural Centre, praised the talent and workmanship of the artisans of this region.

Arts College Principal Prof. D. Ravinder laid stress on identifying the neglected and ruined temples of Telangana and taking them as topics for research study.

OU Registrar Prof. Ch. Gopal Reddy presided over the valedictory function of the seminar, in which more than 40 research papers were presented by academics and research scholars. Faculty members from Osmania and other universities, junior and degree colleges, and post-graduate students from various colleges also participated.

SCHEDULE

April 21-25
'Mosaic' Photo Exhibition at Arts College

April 23
Inauguration of Renovated Tagore Auditorium

April 24
Centenary Seminar on
'Higher Education: A Vision & Perspective'
at Tagore Auditorium

Felicitation of All Vice Chancellors

April 25
Inauguration of Data Centre and Command & Control Centre

Special Lunch for Students

NCC Walk from Andhra Mahila Sabha to Arts College at *5 p.m.*

Valedictory Function from *6 p.m. to 7 p.m.*

Lantern Show at *7 p.m.*

Cultural programmes from *7 p.m. to 10 p.m.*

Fond Memories

The present VC Prof. S. Ramachandram was my 'most promising student'.

Prof. Lakshmi
Computer Science department

During 1984-2017 as Dean and Principal of Science college I overhauled the curriculum and encouraged departments to follow suit. The university should maintain its ranking and improve the credibility and emerge as the best in the country. Student discipline and academic excellence are crucial to achieve this.

Prof. Shankar
Department of Environmental sciences

On my first day in the university, I was asked by my professors to play badminton first and study next.

Prof Babu Rao
Department of Civil Engineering

A girl attempted to suicide as she was financially broke and could not support her family. I reached out to the then Chief Minister Dr. YS Rajasekhara Reddy who obliged. He was surprised to see a Principal championing the cause of a student. Osmanians should inculcate the spirit of brotherhood, and replace "I" with "We" that transforms "Illness" into "WEllness".

Prof. Zubeda
Principal, University College for Women i

Life does not end at 60, it begins at 60.

Prof.P.L. Vishweshwar Rao
Department of Journalism

Young Osmanians pursuing higher education abroad should return to their homeland, and if possible, serve higher education. I did my PhD from London, encouraged many students to pursue higher studies abroad, and returned to India as I had a passion for teaching though there were several good opportunities. Students should involve themselves in extracurricular activities which help in keeping the young minds active and in shutting out negativism.

Prof. K. Shastry
Department of Chemistry

I recall a farm behind the Engineering College. We used to have lunch over there.

Prof. D. Shantaram
Department of Civil Engineering

Our Department made a huge impact in research on water, petroleum, and earth sciences. I remember the honourable Professor G. Ram Reddy inaugurating the Department. Recruitment of faculty could have helped in greater transfer of knowledge.

Prof. Suryaprakash Rao
Department of Applied Geo Chemistry (1967-99)

We've retired from college, not from Science.

Prof. Prasad
Department of Chemistry

I remember the 1969 Telangana agitation, when students actively participated and some of them lost their lives.

Prof. Narsingh Das
Department of Physics

We ask for something, the government gives something else.

Prof.Rama Reddy
University College of Science

I was his [i.e., present VC's] professor and also his research supervisor, I'm happy that he is VC now.

Prof. K.V. Rao
Department of Computer Science

I've lost the ability to talk after I've retired, but now for this occasion I've decided to talk.

Prof. Mayankar
Department of Chemistry

Getting under the same roof, we are going back in time.

Prof.Upadhyay
Department of Economics

Compiled by E. Lalithya, M. Sai Datta, and P. V. Sravani

SNAPSHOTS

1. Prof. P.L. Vishweshwar Rao addresses the gathering, while in the background Registrar Prof. Ch. Gopal Reddy, Vice Chancellor Prof. S. Ramachandram and Officer on Special Duty Prof. T. Krishna Rao look on.
2. A section of the retired professors who were felicitated at the University College of Science.
3. A section of the retired faculty members at the University College of Arts & Social Sciences.
4. Prof. A.S. Upadhyay, who retired from the Department of Economics, makes a point.
5. A young girl among the retirees at Arts College.

Photos: Ravirala Ajay Chandra